

18-Mar-2015

RE: Objection to Raised HB-7028

To: Judiciary Committee

As a resident of Connecticut I want to express my strong opposition to some of the changes proposed in HB-7028 that would amend Section 24 Subsection (b) of section 29-35 of the general statutes.

Far too often this body has viewed legal gun owners with fear and suspicion, when in fact statistics again and again clearly show this mistrust is unfounded. While the idea that legal permit holders must produce their permit at the request of a law enforcement officer may seem innocuous, and to some, obvious, there is a serious issue that affects all of us, not just gun owners. That is, the presumption that any citizen, acting in a perfectly legal way and absent any Reasonable Articulate Suspicion (RAS), is compelled to prove to law enforcement that they are in fact in compliance with the law. For some reason, because this particular proposal focuses on gun owners, there seems to be an acceptance of what would be considered unacceptable for any other citizen.

Let me put this in terms that non-gun owners can appreciate. Imagine being stopped randomly by authorities for driving your car simply because it's something that could be done illegally. True, in the absence of a valid license, registration and insurance you would be breaking the law. However picture being stopped to prove that you're not breaking the law. What would their justification be - that you're obviously driving the car and you might be breaking the law?

Another scenario, maybe less hypothetical – would you be OK with LEOs stopping a person with a foreign accent and expects that person to have to prove citizenship? Would you consider it acceptable that the mere fact that they might be breaking the law justify stopping that person and demanding proof to the contrary?

I would ask all of you to reject this amendment and approach. I ask that you hold this proposal to the same standard that you would apply to any citizen. I truly hope that you would find it abhorrent that any citizen at any given time must prove their compliance with the law in the absence of any Reasonable and Articulate Suspicion.

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